

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4168-01
Bill No.: HB 1591
Subject: Allows philosophical beliefs to be a basis for objection to the required school immunizations.
Type: Original
Date: February 8, 2002

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** assume the proposed legislation will not fiscally impact their organization.

However, DES officials stated the proposal would allow parents to exempt their children from vaccination for philosophical beliefs. In cases of philosophical objections, a notarized statement must be provided annually to the school administrator. This could cause an increase in the number of children exempted from vaccinations which may expand the level of record-keeping at local schools; however, DES officials do not expect this proposal to have a significant impact statewide.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Department of Insurance** assume the proposed legislation will not fiscally impact their organization.

Officials from the **Department of Highways and Transportation (DHT)** also responded on behalf of the **Missouri Highway Patrol's** medical plan. The DHT officials stated that because this legislation does not mandate any health insurance benefit coverage, there would be no fiscal impact to MHTC or the Highway & Patrol Medical Plan.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** state this bill would require the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Social Services, Family Services and Medical Services to promulgate rules and regulations as they pertain to allowing objections based on philosophical beliefs to be basis for not requiring school immunizations. Based on experience with other divisions, the rules, regulations and forms issued by the Department could require as many as 29 pages in the *Code of State Regulations*. For any given rule, roughly one-half again as many pages are published in the *Missouri Register* as are published in the Code because cost statements, fiscal notes and notices are not published in the Code. The estimated cost of a page in the *Missouri Register* is \$23.00. The estimated cost of a page in the *Code of State Regulations* is \$27.00. The actual costs could be more or less than the numbers given. The fiscal impact of this legislation in future years is unknown and depends upon the frequency and length of rules filed, amended, rescinded and withdrawn. The SOS estimates the cost of this legislation to be \$1,487 [(29 pp x \$27) + (43.5 pp x \$23)].

Oversight assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process.

Any decisions to raise fees to defray costs would likely be made in subsequent fiscal years.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials from the **Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan (HCP)** stated the HCP anticipates that most parents, for their children's sake, will follow the recommendation of the Department of Health and their physicians when obtaining immunizations. However, a few members may opt not to receive the immunizations. If the children contract the diseases, which the immunizations were established to prevent, costly medical treatment or death could result. The HCP anticipates the number of members to opt not to receive the immunizations and, therefore, expects this bill to have a minimal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DOH)** stated the primary responsibility for implementing this law would fall on public and private school nurses. It would have no fiscal impact on the DOH.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

This bill revises a provision pertaining to immunizations for school children.

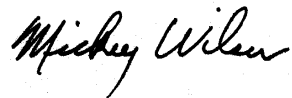
In addition to exemptions based on religious and medical contraindications, the bill allows children to be exempted from the immunization requirement if one parent or guardian objects in writing to the school administrator because of philosophical beliefs. For written objections based on philosophical beliefs, a notarized statement must be provided to the school administrator annually.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not

require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of the Secretary of State
Department of Insurance
Department of Highways and Transportation
Department of Health and Senior Services
Department of Social Services
Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan
Missouri Department of Conservation
Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mickey Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mickey Wilson, CPA
Acting Director
February 8, 2002